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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 /043 W  
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R 231219Z JAN 79  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9189  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP  
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Date   12-5-16  

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - (TEXT, PARAGRAPH 2)

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/22/85 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P  
TAGS: SHUM AR  
SUBJ: (U) MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO

REF: BUENOS AIRES 350 (NOTAL)

1. ENTIRE TEXT CONFIDENTIAL.

2. MOTHERS WITHDRAW FROM PLAZA-----  
THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO, AFTER THREE THURSDAYS  
OF POLICE HARASSMENT AND BRIEF DETENTIONS (REFTEL), HAVE DECIDED TO  
ABANDON TEMPORARILY THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE PLAZA  
DE MAYO. SEVERAL MOTHERS CALLED AT THE EMBASSY ON JANUARY 17TH  
AND 19TH TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY HAD DECIDED TO  
MEET ON THURSDAY AFTERNOONS DURING JANUARY AT SELECTED  
CHURCHES INSTEAD OF DEMONSTRATING IN THE PLAZA. THEY  
STATED FRANKLY THEIR FEAR OF BEING ARRESTED, NOTING  
THEIR ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES TO THEIR FAMILIES. THE  
MOTHERS STATED THAT THEY PLAN TO HOLD A DEMONSTRATION  
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST IN THE PLAZA DE FLORES IN

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CENTRAL BUENOS AIRES.

3. MOTHERS' GROUP MEMBERS TRAVELING TO PUEBLA CONFERENCE -  
FOUR OF THE MOTHERS' GROUP--MARIA GARD DE ANTOKOLETZ,

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CARMEN LAPACO, MARTA OCAMPO DE VAZQUEZ AND NORA MORALEZ DE CORTINAS--LEFT ARGENTINA ON JANUARY 20 FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE IN PUEBLA. THE MOTHERS PLAN TO MEET WITH AS MANY CHURCH OFFICIALS AS POSSIBLE DURING THE PUEBLA MEETING TO URGE THE BISHOPS TO RECOGNIZE THE "DESAPARECIDO PROBLEM" IN ARGENTINA. THE MOTHERS WILL BE CARRYING WITH THEM THE LIST OF 4,381 DISAPPEARANCE CASES RECENTLY ISSUED BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. SOME OF THE MOTHERS SAY THEY PLAN TO CONTINUE TO WASHINGTON AFTER THE PUEBLA CONFERENCE TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WHO WERE NOT IN TOWN WHEN SEVERAL MOTHERS VISITED WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER. THE MOTHERS MAY NOTIFY AMEMBASSY MEXICO OF THEIR WASHINGTON TRAVEL PLANS.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: AS WE EXPECTED, THE POLICE ACTION IN CLOSING THE PLAZA DE MAYO AND ARRESTING AND THREATENING THE MOTHERS WITH IMPRISONMENT HAS FORCED THE LOOSELY STRUCTURED GROUP TO SEEK NEW WAYS TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS.  
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